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Prescott, Arizona, April 10, 1869.

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A REVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN COMPLICATIONS.

(From the San Francisco Chronicle.)

The origin of the war which has just been inaugurated between France and Prussia can be traced back to the conflict between Prussia and Austria in 1866. At that time Count Bismarck made a bold move by marching the Prussian army into the enemy's country before his antagonist was fully aware of it, and by pushing forward with unusual rapidity the Prussians won the battle of Sadowa, and King William saw at once his territory considerably enlarged by the acquisition of Hanover and other refractory States. He also became the head of the North German Confederation, which includes the larger and more powerful part of all the German dominions. Germany thus suddenly

BECAME A FORMIDABLE POWER.

While it had until then been split into a number of small principalities, without influence or unity of action. It must be confessed that the German portion of Austria, which had formerly belonged to the so-called Bund or Confederacy, was henceforward excluded from the supposed intimate alliance of all the German nationalities; but there never was a sincere brotherly feeling between Austria and Prussia, and the alliance was practically of no value to Germany in case of a foreign conflict. What the German States may be believed to have lost by the

EXCLUSION OF AUSTRIA.

The new Confederation gained not only by becoming a unit but also by forming an agreement with those South German Powers, which would not join the new Confederation by virtue of which an army contingent has to be furnished to the Confederation in case of a foreign war. The southern part of Germany being very densely populated, and a certain and not inconsiderable proportion of the population having to perform military duty, the military force of that territory is by no means a small one, and will weigh heavily in the scale of chances during the present conflict. The principal countries of the above class are Bavaria, Wurtemberg and Baden.

THE CONSTITUTION OF NORTH GERMANY.

Was drawn up by the Prussian Government, in 1867, and adopted in the same year by a Parliament elected by universal suffrage, at the rate of one member for every 100,000 inhabitants. According to this charter the States of Prussia, Saxony, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Oldenburg, Brunswick, Saxe-Weimar, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Saxe-Meiningen, Anhalt, Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Saxe-Altenburg, Waldeck, Lippe-Detmold, Schwartzburg-Rudolstadt, Schwartzburg-Sondershausen, Rauten-Schleiz, Reuss-Greiz, Schaumburg-Lippe, Hamburg, Lubec and Bremen have been formed into a Union, for the protection of the territory of the Union and its laws, as well as for the care and welfare of the German people. The total area of these States is 160,297 square miles, and the population about 29,910,377. The following are

THE MAIN FEATURES.

Of the new constitution of North Germany. The legislative power is exercised by a Federal Council and Parliament. They control the customs, commercial regulations, coinage of money, weights and measures, railways, roads, postal and telegraphic services, etc. The Federal Council forms the representation of the various Governments. Its votes are divided thus: Prussia 17; Saxony, 4; Mecklenburg-Schwerin, 2; Brunswick, 2; all other States, 1 each—making a total of 43 votes. The Presidency of the Federation belongs to the Prussian crown. The King of Prussia acts on behalf of the Federation in its intercourse with foreign States, he declares war or concludes peace, and he appoints the Embassadors.

THE FEDERAL COUNCIL.

Is presided over by a Chancellor of the Federation, appointed by the King of Prussia. This Council and the Parliament assemble every year. The Parliament is elected by universal suffrage, direct for three years, and in case of dissolution, a new election must take place within sixty days. The naval forces of the Northern and Baltic seas are placed under the supreme command of Prussia. Every North German is liable to service, and no substitution is allowed. The strength of the Federal army on a peace footing is one per cent. of the population. All the troops form one army, under the command of the King of Prussia. Changes in the constitution can only be voted in Parliament and the Federal Council, by a two-thirds majority. The charter provides, finally, that negotiations shall be entered into with the Southern States to arrive at a settlement of new relations, and, if possible, to complete the union between the Northern and Southern divisions of the German empire. Bismarck is the Federal Councillor.

REIGNING FAMILIES.

Of Bavaria. Louis II. King of Bavaria, born August 25, 1845, son of Maximilian II. and Maria, daughter of Prince William of Prussia, succeeded his father March 10, 1864. The grandfather of the King, Louis I., born 1786, King of Bavaria 1825-48, died 1868. The royal house of Bavaria descends from the Counts of Arlesbach, who flourished in the twelfth century. Duke Maximilian I. of Bavaria was elevated to the rank of Elector of the Holy Roman Empire in the Thirty Years War, and Elector Maximilian Torgob was raised to the rank of King by Napoleon, in 1805.

WURTEMBERG.

Charles, King of Wurtemberg, born March 6, 1823; succeeded his father, June 25, 1864; married July 13, 1846, to Grand Duchess Olga of Russia, daughter of Czar Nicholas I. The former Duchy of Wurtemberg was erected into a Kingdom by Napoleon in 1805.

BADEN.

Frederick I., Grand Duke of Baden, born September 9, 1826, son of Grand Duke Leopold I. and Princess Sophia of Sweden; succeeded his father April 24, 1852; married September 20, 1856, to Louise, born December 3, 1838, daughter of King William I. of Prussia; children—1st. Frederick William, heir apparent, born July 9, 1857; 2d. Sophia, born 1862; 3d. Louis, born 1865. The title of Grand Duke was given by Napoleon I. to Margrave Charles Frederick of Baden in 1806.

THE INCREASE OF GERMANY'S POWER.

Was a thorn in the side of Napoleon, who had encouraged Austria in the war of 1866, because his influence over her Emperor, Francis Joseph, was great, and he was in hopes of extending that influence over all Germany, if Austria had been victorious in the struggle. The French Emperor's grudge has had no chance to ventilate itself, during the past four years till now; he and his plans met with a reverse in the Mexican affair, and he saw the necessity of restoring his prestige by a foreign war. Nothing could be more desirable for Napoleon but to pick up a quarrel with his old enemy, but an opportunity would not present itself until the Spanish question suddenly came up on the political horizon. In order to bring

THE SPANISH THRONE QUESTION.

Into proper connection with the Franco-Prussian war, it must be remembered that almost two years ago Queen Isabella was expelled from Spain by her former subjects, or rather not allowed to return to Madrid from the visit she had made to Napoleon, in a watering-place at the frontier. She selected Paris for her place of resort, and she had ample opportunity to court the Emperor's favor through the influence of Eugenie, who is a Spanish Princess, and very much attached to

THE EXILED QUEEN.

While revolution prevailed all over the peninsula, until finally a Provisional Government was established, under the Regency of Marshal Serrano, with General Prim as the leading spirit. It so happened that neither of the above named men was anxious or even willing to take possession of the crown which had become vacant; it became like-wise impossible to establish a Republic in Spain, and the nation on the peninsula was therefore compelled to look for a foreign Prince to rule over them. No available person was found until finally General Prim conceived the idea of offering the crown to

PRINCE LEOPOLD.

Of Hohenzollern, a Prussian Prince and distant relative of the present King, the head of the family Hohenzollern. Leopold's relationship to the reigning dynasty of Prussia is on the father's side, but in the female line he is allied with the Bonaparte family, for his mother was the Princess Marie Antoinette Murat, and his sister the wife of Murat's grandson, who held the throne of the Two Sicilies, married the sister of the First Emperor and died the death of a traitor at the hands of the Austrians. Napoleon III. has treated

MURAT'S DESCENDANTS.

With extraordinary consideration. Lucien, the son of the late Marshal, who was for a long time an exile in the United States, is now a Senator of France, and considered a member of the Imperial family; the wife of the Prince of Hohenzollern is daughter of Stephanie Beauharnais, the adopted daughter of Napoleon I. As far as Prince Leopold is concerned, Napoleon III. objects to him for two weighty reasons. However distant a relative, Leopold is still a relative of the King of Prussia, and Prussia's influence may make itself more or less perceptible if Leopold should ever ascend the throne of Spain. A younger brother of Leopold, Prince Charles, is the ruler of Roumania, and it is thought by many that Turkey would not bear that outsider on his petty throne but for fear of Prussia's, and consequently Austria's, intervention, should the Sultan dare to raise any difficulty on that score. However slim and imperceptible in times of peace, there is still an influence in existence which may take formidable dimensions whenever any war question arises. Napoleon objected to this

RISING INFLUENCE OF PRUSSIA.

And felt sore at the idea that his most bitter antagonist should rule on the eastern line of his Empire, while the western boundary should be likewise more or less under the control of Prussia. Another important reason why the French Emperor objects to the person of Prince Leopold is the fact of his being a brother-in-law to the King of Portugal, whose sister is the Prince's wife. If a Prince ruled over Spain who is indifferent to the

ROYAL HOUSE OF PORTUGAL.

Gr inimical to it, Napoleon might hope that dissensions would sooner or later arise between the two reigning houses, and he would probably be the first one to nourish and foster them, with a view toward weakening the intrinsic strength of both nations. With the prospects, however, of a fair understanding between the two kings, Napoleon's chances for influence would amount to nothing, and he might be compelled to leave the field to Prussia, if the future ruler of Spain should allow any intervention from abroad at all. There are, however, besides these above enumerated

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.

For Napoleon, not less important in character and bearing. The Emperor has been thwarted in his plans in regard to Spain, for he flattered himself with the expectation that he would eventually be able either to turn public opinion in Spain in favor of Prince Alfonso of Asturias, the son of the expelled Queen, by opposing the aspirations of the Carlists to the Spanish throne, and discouraging

REPUBLICAN IDEAS AMONG THE SPANISH PEOPLE.

Through his secret agents. It is but fair to suppose that his calculation was to tire the Spanish nation fairly into the acceptance of the Queen's son for King at all hazards, and to make them so disgusted with the provisional state of affairs, that even the worst government would seem preferable to the present unsettled condition of Spain. But the fact of the boy Alfonso being on the Spanish throne would not give sufficient weight to Napoleon's plans. He had another scheme on hand which would promise to his dynasty a lasting influence over the destinies of Spain. For some time the old Emperor has been looking about whom among the European princesses he should designate as

HIS FUTURE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.

There was none politically eligible except a daughter of Queen Isabella, and she was to be made the link which should unite the dynasties of Spain and France, and make a French province of Spain at the earliest possible moment. All these fine plans were frustrated as soon as the astounding report came from Madrid and Berlin that the crown of Spain had been offered by General Prim, in the name of his nation, to Prince Leopold, and that the latter had accepted the candidature. All consideration for the rights of a nation now disappeared in Napoleon's mind. He forgot that freemen men had a right to select the man who should rule over them; he imagined that, in a measure, as he is the

ALMOST ABSOLUTE RULER OVER FRANCE, so must he have a right to dictate to which-ever foreign nation would submit to outside government. He cannot bear to see his well laid plans destroyed or disturbed, and this accounts for the attitude which Napoleon assumed by interfering with the affairs of a nation which has an uncontested right to select a King independently of foreign influences. The shock was

MORE THAN NAPOLEON COULD STAND.

And he sent a message to King William of Prussia demanding the immediate withdrawal of Leopold from the candidature and non-interference of the King on the subject. It was not the Prussian King's province to dictate who shall or who shall not rule over Spain any more so than Napoleon's; but it suited the latter to make other's affairs his own. Seeing that Prussia would not pay any attention to the excitement called forth by him, he went further, and only then showed his real intentions by dragging in questions which were entirely foreign to the point at issue.

THE SENTIMENT OF EUROPE.

Almost all European nations looked with disfavor at the approaching conflict, and denounced the attempts of the French Emperor to disturb the peace of Europe; the Government of Great Britain was particularly zealous in endeavoring to maintain peace.

ENGLAND'S SYMPATHIES.

The English Government has been a close ally of Napoleon for the last sixteen years, and naturally dislikes to break up this alliance, unless the integrity and honor of Great Britain is directly attacked; it was natural, therefore, and proper for the Prime Minister, Gladstone, to do all that was in his power to avert the impending war. The Court of St. James is, moreover, intimately connected with that of Berlin by the marriage of the Crown Prince of Prussia with one of Queen Victoria's daughters; England was on that account the most competent party to conciliate the contending factions. It was of no avail, however, for all plans of reconciliation were annulled by the stern attitude which France assumed and although the hope for reconciliation does not appear to be yet entirely abandoned in London, the chances of success are very slim, and will probably be annulled ere many days are over.

THE POSITION OF RUSSIA.

One of the most powerful Governments in existence will lend its moral support to Prussia in the struggle, although, for obvious reasons, it will try to keep neutral as long as it can. The present ruler of Russia, the Czar Alexander II., has been the steadfast friend of Prussia ever since his accession to the throne in 1854. He is a near relative of King William, and being a man of enlightened views, his desire has always been to side with the party of progress, to which Prussia undoubtedly belongs. He has shown this same disposition in his dealings with the United States; and aside from all these considerations he will naturally be more inclined to side with the enemy of the power which has been the means of Russia's defeat at Sebastopol. Russia's neutrality alone is worth a great deal to Prussia, on account of her geographical position between the Muscovite empire and France; but Russia's sympathy is worth still more, and cannot be overrated if the struggle should assume large dimensions.

THE SCANDINAVIAN NATIONS.

Napoleon has made an effort to bring about an alliance between his empire and Denmark, Sweden and Norway. It is not known at this hour what the result of his scheme in that direction has been, but the probabilities are that his offer will be more or less eagerly accepted by the King of Denmark on account of the old grudge which that potentate has against Prussia for the sake of Schleswig-Holstein, which has been the bone of contention between the German States and Denmark for a number of years, and is likely to remain so until the latter kingdom becomes consolidated with Sweden and Norway as a Scandinavian power and abandons all claims to a small streak of land which is, in sympathy more German than Danish, and hardly worth all the bloodshed which it has already brought about between the two nations. The enmity with Denmark will only have a bearing as far as the free navigation from the Baltic into the Atlantic is concerned, and Napoleon courts Denmark's favor, not on account of her military or her maritime power, which

is very trifling, but on account of the facility which her geographical situation offers her for interfering with the navigation of Prussian men-of-war as well as merchant vessels.

HOLLAND.

Is a small power which will likewise endeavor to remain neutral, and is likely to succeed better than most European nations. She is one of the few powers in Europe which have no interest at stake on the question of the day; and as long as the King of Holland is allowed to remain undisturbed, he would be rash to interfere—for a small kingdom has never anything to gain when large Powers strive for preponderance. Matters are somewhat different as far as

THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM.

Is concerned. Its ruler holds a very disagreeable position in this contest, for a member of his family was accused last week of having supported the claims of Leopold, and the Government of Brussels has found it necessary to issue a declaration which was intended to show that no interference in the Spanish crown affair had taken place in that quarter. Fear of France doubtless prompted that measure, and even now it is likely that the stronghold of Antwerp has been fortified and made a kind of last resort by the Belgian authorities because they are afraid that France will use some pretext or other for "occupying" a part of Belgian territory, and afterward forget to withdraw her troops, as was the case in Rome many years ago.

ITALY.

Is likewise in a somewhat awkward position. If the true sentiments of her people were known, her sympathy would probably prove to be very strongly on the side of Prussia; but the King of Italy is not altogether independent of French favor. He owes his elevation to the throne of the peninsula in a great measure to Napoleon, for it was the French army that decided the Austro-Italian war in 1859, which enabled Victor Emmanuel to ascend the throne of Italy, while before that time he had merely held the position of King of Savoy. The present King of Italy is under obligations to Napoleon, and his course may be guided by gratitude toward his benefactor. It is likely, therefore, that Italy may find the means far remaining strictly neutral.

THE POSITION OF SWITZERLAND.

If there is any power in Europe which has a right to claim neutrality, it is certainly the small republic of Switzerland. It is situated between France, the German States and Italy, and would be quickly crushed if any of the Great Powers should have the audacity to interfere with her integrity. The mutual jealousy of the European powers is a better guarantee for her safety than the largest army could ever be; and since no question of succession to the throne is at stake in the land which alone in Europe can claim to be free, many difficulties are removed which would otherwise furnish ground for differences between the Swiss and other nations.

THE AUSTRIAN EMPIRE.

Cannot be said to occupy a very exalted position under the pressure of present complications. The Emperor Francis Joseph has not fortitude of mind enough to get over his prejudice against Prussia; he sees in the latter power merely the instrument of his humiliation and defeat four years ago, and hopes to be able to regain what is likely to be irreparably lost for him and his dynasty. It has always been the great mistake of the house of Hapsburg not to take the progress of the age into sufficient consideration, so far as its ruling power is concerned. To be sure, many of the former abuses in regard to religious liberty and the arbitrary actions of the religious magnates have been abolished by the present Emperor, and he has shown that he has a distaste for religious persecution. The school system in Austria has likewise experienced a decided improvement. But Francis Joseph blunders in another direction. He is like the rest of his family—ambitious for governing. It was merely the desire for being an independent ruler which prompted Maximilian to depart for the shores of Mexico, never to return again alive, and his elder brother is by no means free from that craving for power. His estates have dwindled down considerably since his accession to power in 1849; but Francis Joseph gained no strength by his possessions in Italy, and ought to be glad to be rid of them. He is in danger of losing Bohemia if he pursues the course inaugurated by him and adopts a threatening attitude in the struggle, in which he has little chance of improving his prospects. It is said that an Austrian corps of observation has been sent to the Prussian frontier, but if he should take an active part in the contest, the German part of the Austrian Empire might be lost to him, and become a part of a future German Empire under Prussia's control. Francis Joseph would then be compelled to withdraw to Hungary, of which he is the King, and become the ruler of the Magyars and the Croats, to the exclusion of all German element.

THE POSITION OF FRANCE TO AUSTRIA.

Napoleon has certainly not acted toward incredulous and confiding Austria so as to be able to claim her co-operation. He left her in the lurch in her struggle against Prussia in 1866, because he saw there was nothing for him to gain, but much to lose. He abandoned an Austrian prince in a foreign country, after he had induced him to take the principal hand in the dangerous and fatal Mexican game. He brought about a war between Austria and Italy, and his own troops fought against Francis Joseph's soldiers, because he had the province of Nice to gain and put the King of Italy under obligations to him; and how well he carried his point is well known to the student of current events. It is hard to see why Austria should take any part at all in the present struggle; and the advice of the astute Austrian Premier, Baron

[CONCLUDED ON 4TH PAGE.]